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BEE-CULTURE.



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tion of the N. A. B. JOURNAL will exceed our most sanguine expectations; and let me say to my friends South that you now have and ever will have in the N. A. B. JOURNAL one that will stand up for your interests, and this journal, in connection with the Bee-Keepers' Guide, (denominated THE APIARY), will be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the South. So long as I am able to contribute my mite to the JOURNAL I shall do so. Now is the time for all who expect to give any attention to bee culture to subscribe to the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL and get the Bee Keepers' Guide free. Hoping to retain my strength sufficiently that I may write an article each month, I will close by saying to all friends of apiculture to stand by the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL to the last.

WILL R. KING.

Franklin, Ky.

OUR friend, Mr. E. I. Josey, of Huntsville, Texas, in a private letter, gives us a description of Texas as being one of the best States in the Union for bees; all that is necessary is to have persons that understand the business to make it a success. They winter their bees on their summer stands without any protection whatever. He further says their prairies are a natural flower garden for at least eight months in the year. This certainly would make an Eldorado for the bee-keeper, and will, we trust, answer some of the numerous questions asked where they could find a good locality for an apiary. If Texas should give a succession of flowers for eight months in the year, and the winter being so mild, then it must necessarily follow that country is especially adapted to make bee-keeping profitable. And we would not be

surprised to hear that some of our young, energetic and enterprising young men, upon due reflection, would conclude to take up the line of march for that land that flows with milk and honey, providing they can be so successful as to induce a Miss Emma, or Miss Annie, or Miss Ella, or some one of the fair and noted Misses in apiculture, to share with them in this noble enterprise in the sunny South.

MR. D. D. PALMER, of New Boston, Ill., writes us that bees have not done very well there this season, saying the basswood and white clover was almost a failure; yet he has on an average 100 pounds of strained honey taken by the honey machine. Their principal resource for honey was from the Mississippi bottom autumn flowers. We doubt very much if many have beat this in localities where the honey crop was an average yield. Mr. Palmer has promised us an article soon.

IN this number we publish the valedictory of Mr. King, one of the partners of this journal. His health for a few months past has been very poor indeed, which has prevented him from attending to business. The many friends of Mr. King, while regretting his withdrawal from the JOURNAL, will be pleased to know that, should his health permit, they will hear from him often through the JOURNAL. May success attend him.

THE "American Bee-Keepers, Guide" is the title of a new book published by E. Krethmer, of Coburg, Montgomery county, Iowa. The book contains much valuable reading matter, and should be in the hands of every bee-keeper in the land. Price, fifty cents.

late this fall, show only a very few one-banded workers. Now, what is to be done in such cases? Will some one answer.

G. STAGGS.

Rushville, Missouri.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

Bee Keeping.

Messrs. Editors:—Friend Palmer, under the head of Sweet Home, talks to us of his "fair increase" in bees, and his thousands of pounds of extracted honey from forty-six colonies of bees; twenty of which gave him two thousand pounds. This is better than we of this locality have done. I repeat with friend Palmer, that your "Forty Years' Experience in Apiculture" is an excellent work, containing much information in bee culture,—full of practical ideas.

Messrs. Warden & Russell, of Kingsport, Tenn., whispers to us through the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, that the people have become inspired with the knowledge that bee keeping is one of the most successful roads to prosperity.

I am glad to learn that southern people are becoming wide awake to the interest of bee keeping. May they reap many good harvests of honey in the south, and do well.

W. R. Baker, of Hernando, Miss., still remembers to give us his mite, on bee keeping in his favored land of flowers. At this time his chief concern is to provide pasturage for them, and we of the north should be no less concerned about the honey yielding pasturage, and that to, in all the summer season, so the bee keepers may have one continued harvest of prosperity, while the nectar continues to flow in the secreting flowers.

Yes, friend Baker send up your "half dozen subscribers to the JOURNAL,"—it will make the editor glad, and do the readers good. Don't forget to send the Red Shank seed.

In looking at friend Hester's reply to McGraw's argument, of course I will not express any opinion until they finish their pleas for and against the "theory that queens destroy royal cells and kill each other." Let them argue it out to show forth all the *light* and *truth* they can on both sides. They should confine themselves to that. Let truth and light be their motto.

My friend, R. A. Southworth, speaks plainly of his likes and dislikes in bee journalism,—Well, he says he likes to have the editor talk some about bee keeping. So do I, and show their light on that subject too, and dwell in harmony, speaking gently to each other. 'It makes a deeper and more lasting impression upon the mind. I like to see the bee journals devoted to common sense bee keeping, giving all articles of value a hearing.

On the other hand, he *dislikes* to see hard words given against brother bee keepers through the bee journals. Well, we equally dislike that. Hard words unfitly spoken do immense mischief. Words fitly spoken are like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." I also dislike for the editors to withhold a part of the address of correspondents of their journals. Since it prevents us from learning many things that we wish to find out from them of importance to us, and of deep interest to all. Those who have done so, know what this means, and can do better in days to come, if they want to give light to all, instead of throwing a

about time to begin again. Winter has broken here, and the bees have been gathering pollen for the last two weeks. They get it from the "Cromwell" willow and maple, and, by the way, we think they ought to be cultivated, where they do not grow, for early pollen.

We expect to use the extractor altogether this season, as we do not intend to waste all the year waiting for box honey, and get nothing, like we did the last. We have been trying to instil this into the obstinate bee keepers of this section, but it is worse than introducing a movable comb hive. We have exhausted our patience, and are about to give it up in disgust. They admit that it is a very nice thing, yet it costs too much. It does not cost anything to raise stock for a farm, and therefore, of course they bring in a large profit.

We received the JOURNAL, and, as a matter of course, we have something to say about it. We would like to learn how to make Mr. Salisbury's comb guide, but somehow we can't get his discription into our noddle. We confess it is rather thick, yet it would take one thin enough for the sun to shine through to hammer this into. We would like to know what he means by nailing strap No. 2 to No. 1, and letting it project one-half inch below No. 1; and then he does not tell us how he attaches it to the frame. We hope he will make it plainer in some future article.

Mr. Argos says he never was troubled with dysentery, and we very naturally suppose that he does not want to be troubled with it. We only lost one colony this winter by it, and would have considered ourself in luck for once if the rascals had not got a notion into their heads of leav-

ing their hives. This is really a fact. They left and joined other stocks, leaving behind them plenty of honey and brood. Every warm day we would have two or three swarms, until we thought we would have only one large swarm left. We stopped it, however, by moving all the restless stocks out of the yard.

As far as our experience goes with dysentery, we think it is produced by the bees being too cold, although we wintered ours out doors, with the mercury down to 14 degrees below zero, and we only lost one, as we said before, and that about Christmas.

The best mode of wintering is to have all the stocks strong in numbers, and leave them on their summer stands, even if they do not have much honey, and they will not be apt to get cold enough to produce dysentery. None of your wintering small stocks with a hive full of honey for us. Some go about it as if they were trying to winter a large quantity of honey successfully, instead of the bees, by the way they keep feeding them.

Mr. Kellogg says he lost one stock by starvation. It served him right, although we will not say the same of the bees, for he ought to have fed them.

Palmer sends "Chips from home," but according to *his* article, we think *he* has kept them there, viz: the chips of *his* bees. We are very sorry *he* has lost so many.

Mr. Murray says he prefers box honey to extracted, because it sells better. We would like it, also, if we could get it; but still we would rather use the extractor, if for no other reason than to save the bees the trouble of building so much comb. It takes a little longer to make comb than it does to chew it up to get the honey

enough to eradicate the tendency to sport, then we are ready to admit that they are a pure race of bees, but not till then.

M. Mahin revives that drone question which exercised to such an extent, some little time ago, the minds of some of the doctors in apiculture. We had hoped, and earnestly too, that this mooted question would be dropped, for we, at least, had become thoroughly wearied with the oft-repeated and stale rehearsal of the wonderful(?) power of that all-revealing microscope, to bring to the light of day the hidden laws of nature. We too once ardently embraced and defended that beautiful theory, but the practical workings of the apiary, which is the final appeal, and the only true one, convinced us that it was only a "delusion and a snare." Of course we are aware that these views of the question run counter to those of zoologists, professors, philosophers, doctors, and—well, we'll not undertake to enumerate the entire list, for it would make our article too verbose. But here we will leave the subject, with the remark that if any one wishes light on the subject, something dazzling and effulgent, (not the feeble rays of an opaque luminary,) just make all inquiries through the JOURNAL.

We would here reiterate Dr. J. P. H. B.'s suggestion to "keep a record of all the operations in the apiary," more especially all of the most important ones. But will it pay? Most assuredly it will; not only in dollars and cents, but such a record, carefully prepared and neatly executed, will be a source of pride and satisfaction in after years. Moreover, we would know the why, and how, and where of many things that are now a profound mystery.

We fully agree with our friend Davis in regard to the "seasons." We certainly did not mean to convey the impression that man was independent of his Creator, Far be it from us to knowingly predicate any such thing. Not only are we wholly dependent upon a beneficent Father for "every good and perfect gift," but in Him alone do "we live, and move, and have a being." But the idea we wished to convey was simply this, unless man put forth active, intelligent effort, he would not succeed, and that upon this would his success depend. Many thanks, friend Davis, for calling our attention to that point.

We pass by all the doleful tales of "dysentery," as we have given our views in regard to offensive questions. However we hope to hear a better report from "Sweet Home," which flows with (dysentery, isn't it, friend Palmer,) milk and honey, in the fall.

And so you, Mr. Editor, occasionally get a rub from that "little grindstone" at Medina. Well, the best way—or most effectual, at any rate—to fight fire is *with fire*, though we admit that it's not pleasant at all. But, then—well, there, we'll stop right here, lest we get to talking behind people's backs, which, in our humble opinion, is a most despicable, mean trait of character. If you have anything to say, act like a man, and talk to a man's face, squarely and fairly. So say we.

Well, now, we must say that Miss Eva M. understands her subject. We wish we could induce some one of the fair sex to accept a partnership in the——business with us. Oh! there it is '73 now, isn't it; we were thinking it was leap year. Excuse us.

Our time is up, as the clock strikes

On motion it was resolved, That we heartily recommend the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, edited by A. F. Moon, of Indianapolis, Ind., to all bee keepers, as a monthly publication worthy the respect of all bee keepers.

On motion, all papers favoring practical bee culture in the South are earnestly requested to aid the Association in its infancy by publishing these proceedings and calling attention editorially to them.

No further business the convention adjourned to time and place indicated above.

W. J. BORDEN, Pres't.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

Chips from Sweet Home.

Messrs. Editors:—My outfit for the apiary consists of pants in boot legs, shirts with elastic sewed in the risbonds, tight enough to prevent bees from crawling in, a bee veil made of bobinet with elastic so as to draw over the hat, we tuck the ends under our suspenders; a piece of rotten wood to smoke the blacks and hybrids; a basket to hiveswarms in, which we also use to carry our kit of tools, which consists of a shoemaker's crooked awl, to pick workers out of the comb, a knife with a blade twelve inches long, having a saw on one side which is very handy to saw cross-sticks when transferring from box hives; a very thin case knife which we can bend to suit to cut in the cor-

ners and stools off of the bottom of the hive; a remnant of a heavy knife for lifting frames and honey board; a pair of nippers to pull pins or tacks, (we sometimes pin or use twine for fastening comb); a little salt to sprinkle among the boxes on the honey board to drive away ants; a soft brush broom to brush the Italians off the comb as they can not be shook off; a teacup of honey and pieces of sponge to supply queen cages; a table spoon in which we put honey to roll our queens, for bees usually receive any stranger bee which has honey, (we usually receive any man if he has plenty of money); a book in which we keep a record of each hive; we also have a honey-slinger of our own make costing under \$10.00, and as much better than the advertised revolving cans as sun light is better than moon light; a shop well supplied with tools, and a bee house for wintering already built in our imagination. The above list is not complete but answers very well. D. D. PALMER.

New Boston, Ill.

P. S.—This season we have added sulphur and a fumigating box to save our combs from the moth. D. D. P.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

Bees in Georgia.

Messrs Editors:—To the bee keepers of the north and northwest, we truly sympathize with

ed that the drone of a virgin queen should propagate his species, any more than that of a fertil worker should his, from the fact that the virgin queen cannot lay an egg that will produce a queen; and a queen that has been fertilized can raise her own drones as soon as she can her queens, and always does. I think the power to produce drones was given to the virgin queen and the fertil worker for the same purpose, but what that purpose is I am not prepared to say.

I know how to sympathize with friend Barclay. I, too, have lost hundreds of dollars within the last three years, but I still have two hives left. It does look discouraging, but I never say fail, but try again.

I will ask friend Burch if the black bee does not sport as well as the Italian? I have known persons to commence with a single hive of blacks, and in a few years have several different varieties: some called the little black bee, some the big yellow, and others the gray bee, with various grades of disposition, prolificness industry, etc.; then, did they not sport? As to the Egyptian bee, I know nothing. But if the Italian is a cross between the Egyptian and the black, how did they get hemmed in the mountains of Italy? and what became of their ancestors? Were they all absorbed in the new race? or did the superiority of the cross force

them to the wall? Where did the Egyptian originate, and where the black? May be they both originated from the Italians, for it is a poor rule that won't work both ways. I think the tendency to sport into different varieties is a principal in fallen nature. What say you, friend Burch?

R. H. ANTHONY.

Bell Buckle, Tenn.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

Chips from Sweet Home.

Messrs. Editors:—We started to winter with fifty-five hives in good condition on their summer stands. When spring came we had no chips to send you, for we had quit the bee business, or rather *all* our bees had quit keeping house. Out of about seven hundred hives in this range, about fifteen were left—barely enough for seed. On the 15th of April I started for Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Made the acquaintance of G. B. Long and family. He is among our few thorough, practical bee men. I bought 65 hives of him, and 30 of other parties. I shall ever remember my visit to G. B. Long's southern home. Mrs. Long is a good Christian woman.

I packed the 85 hives, 40 empty ones, and one of Gray & Winter's extractors, in a car, (could have put in 20 more hives,) and went to Henderson on the Ohio, a distance of 80 miles; put on a boat to Cairo, 190 miles; then

reshipped to St. Louis, 200 miles, then to New Boston, 285 miles. Lost one out of G. B. Long's, and four out of the other lot. Three were queenless and two lacked honey. Found G. B. Long's bees in good condition, and his Langstroth hives well made. He was nicely fixed for the business, but in a poor location. There was no disease among them. I have Italians and blacks, but expect to have all Italians by fall. So few hives have survived that I will not be troubled with black drones from my neighbors.

Two queens in one hive! By some means No. 4 became queenless, and I had brood from both black and Italian queens, from which they had several queen cells capped. In a few days I examined again, and found eggs, then a black queen, which had been fertilized, and here on the same comb was a fine lively Italian virgin queen. This is the only instance I have met with.

I am a persistent bee-keeper.

D. D. PALMER.

New Boston, Ill.

[For the North American Bee Journal.]

Experience in Bee Keeping.

Messrs Editors:—About the first of December last I made a report of my last year's business in bee keeping, which is to be found in your January number of the JOURNAL, page 139.

I will now give you my winter's experience. I had in December last seven colonies, all

apparently in good condition, and as I had not taken any honey from them, I supposed, without making an examination of them, that they had enough supplies in store for the winter.

In February I opened each one of the seven hives and examined their condition. I found four out of the seven dead, apparently frozen to death, but there were no honey at all in their hives. I then concluded to feed the three remaining colonies with syrup every fair day. Some time in March I found that the bees were decreasing very fast from two of the remaining hives, leaving only a few lonely bees remaining, and on the first of April I found by examination that they were all gone. This left me but one colony out of thirteen, which I had on hand in October, and seven in December. I would further relate that the single colony which I have left appears to have a great many drone bees in it, and it is the only one I noticed having any drones in, out of the seven colonies I had living in December last. I am sorry now that I did not examine them more carefully in December last in regard to their winter supplies, and supply the deficiency with candy, when they were short of honey, though yet alive. The bees were in Buckeye Hives, and wintered on summer stands. Bee keeping with me so far has not been very profitable. I have

have been exhibited to hundreds. Mr. Salisbury is considered as one of our most reliable breeders, his stock is of the very best, and a man can rely upon them. His address is Camarga, Douglas Co., Ill.

WE have received a swarm of pure Italians from the apiary of Dr. Hamlin, of Edgefield Junction, Tenn. The doctor, as well as many others of our most noted queen breeders, has won for himself the reputation of a good breeder and fair dealer. The queen and swarm sent came through all right. Doctor writes the queen was bred the latter part of the season of '71, from an imported queen, that season she was fertilized by the cholar process, and mated with drone from queen imported; the queen has a beautiful rich tan color, she is fine in size and quite active. She not being the mother of bees sent we can not judge only by the description given by the doctor, which of itself is a guarantee. We expect something fine indeed, and will report progress in time—the bees as well as the queen seem to be of fine disposition. handle them with impunity.

WE received one queen by mail from J. W. Winders, of Cincinnati, Ohio. The queen is one of the lightest in color that we ever saw, almost an orange color. She is large and active, and seems to be very prolific indeed. We shall

watch the products of this queen and her progressing. We are now rearing queens from the three, and shall test strength, color, size, and prolificness. It is supposed by some, and honestly too, that the lightest colored queens are not as hardy or as prolific as those having more of the original color, viz. tan or leather chestnut, etc. We are satisfied the great change in color is produced by the breeders in selecting the lighter colored queens to breed from, this is or should be done by additional blood from other stocks, this gives strength, size, and vitality.

WE received a letter from our correspondent and persistent bee keeper, Mr. D. D. Palmer, of New Boston, Ill., who by the way is bound to make his mark in the world, by a careful and practical knowledge of the bee, he is one of those who never gives up when he knows he is right. He writes us June 23, he had received two queens from the apiary of friend Kretahmen, of Coburg, Mont. Co., Iowa, every body knows him of his fine queens and fair dealings. Mr. Palmer introduced them, leaving them in the cage three days, in letting them out one of them flew up, up, up, and he does not know but she is still going up, as she has not yet returned—fine joke on queen but a greater one on D. D. for loosing one of the Kretahmen queens, as they have a good

name, but we venture to say that he does not give up. After losing by that disease dysentery a large apiary, he travels hundreds of miles and purchased a large stock of bees to commence again with, this is the stripe that wins; no (*can't*) about it. His article was directed to myself, which was forwarded here, hope it will reach the office in time for the June number. If all would take a lesson from such bee men, our land would flow with milk and honey. Long may he live.

IN our last we gave our process of introducing Italian queens, we should said first remove the black queen, and when the Italian is to be released, examine every comb and see that no queens have been started, as they may not receive their step-mother with the best of feeling.

WE notice that some of our contemporaries copy articles from the NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL without giving credit to whom credit is due, crediting to other papers; we have no objections to their copying providing they give credit. Do not be afraid to say NORTH AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.

THE last number of the JOURNAL was delayed a few days, the Publishing Company was crowded with work, and our partner being a new hand at the post, and a single man at that, no doubt he had a good deal to see to, which,

we hope, the JOURNAL may be on time hereafter. The JOURNAL is highly appreciated and is rapidly increasing, a glance over its pages is a sufficient guarantee that the best bee keepers of America appreciate its worth. We do not have to beg to get correspondence, (*no*), the first intimation to the people that its columns were open to all alike was enough; we have been sorry that we could not keep up with them. But gentlemen your kindness and the unbounded zeal and energy to spread light to the world, has been appreciated by the masses, it convinces the people your object is to spread light and *benefit man*, may you ever keep doing.

WE have received letters stating they did not receive their JOURNAL, there must be a wrong somewhere, as every JOURNAL is marked plainly and put into the post office. We hope that when such occurs the parties not receiving will notify us at once, so that another may be sent them. These facts have come from some of the best and most noted bee keepers of the country, and they regret the loss or delay of the JOURNAL much.